AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original) A fire retarding device for covering a hot casing, comprising:

a flexible member adapted for superposition on the hot casing, said member adapted to cover at least a portion of the hot casing, said member comprising intermingled filaments forming a porous flame arresting fibrous network; said fibrous network having a volume being more porous than dense, and wherein said filaments are arranged to define voids of a maximum size throughout said fibrous network, and wherein said maximum void size is chosen to limit flame propagation of an ignited fluid through said member.

Claim 2 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 1, wherein the fire retarding device is removable from said hot casing.

Claim 3 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 1, wherein said filaments are irregularly intertwined to form said fibrous network.

Claim 4 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 1, wherein said member is entirely comprised of said flame arresting fibrous network.

Claim 5 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 1, further comprising a plurality of insulative thermal blankets disposed adjacent one another around said hot casing, and wherein a said flexible member is disposed between adjacent sections of said insulative thermal blankets.

Claim 6 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 1, further comprising an insulative thermal blanket disposed around said hot casing, and wherein a said flexible member is disposed around said insulative thermal blanket.

Claim 7 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 1, wherein said member is disposed immediately adjacent said hot casing.

Claim 8 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 1, wherein said hot casing is an aircraft engine casing.

Claim 9 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 1, wherein said filaments are metal.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A fire retarding device for covering a hot casing, comprising:

a blanket ~~said member~~ adapted to cover at least a portion of the hot casing, said blanket comprising a plurality of filaments arranged to form a flame arresting matrix, said filaments intersecting in said matrix to form a plurality of voids in said matrix, said voids being smaller than a maximum size throughout said ~~mesh~~ matrix, said maximum size being predetermined ~~being~~ to limit flame propagation of an ignited fluid across said voids.

Claim 11 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 10, wherein said blanket is disposed immediately adjacent said hot casing.

Claim 12 (original) A fire retarding device for covering a hot casing, comprising:

a member adapted to cover at least a portion of the hot casing, said member comprising a porous flame arresting matrix having a plurality of substantially interconnected voids defined therein, said voids having a maximum size, said maximum size being predetermined to limit flame propagation of an ignited fluid across said voids.

Claim 13 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein said member is disposed immediately adjacent on the hot casing.

Claim 14 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, further comprising at least one insulative thermal blanket.

Claim 15 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein the hot casing is an aircraft jet engine casing and wherein said flammable fluid is jet fuel.

Claim 16 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein said flame arresting matrix has a percent-density of between 10% and 30%.

Claim 17 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein said voids do not exceed a maximum size in at least a direction extending substantially outwardly from said hot casing.

Claim 18 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein said member is removable from said hot casing.

Claim 19 (original) The fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein said member is composed of a metal.